

Ardleigh Parish Council



Hello from your Parish Council!

Since our last article we have seen some staff changes and restructuring at the Council. We must say goodbye and thank you to our former Clerk, Rachel Fletcher, who stepped down at the end of June. Rachel steered the Council through the years of Covid restrictions, the Neighbourhood Plan and many other major infrastructure and planning issues. As part of the restructuring, Rachel will remain with the Council as Responsible Finance Officer for a few months.

Our former Deputy Clerk, Rachel Edwards, has moved into the role of Clerk. She has been with the Council for nearly 3 years, has 'acted up' for the Council on several occasions and has previous experience as Clerk with another Parish Council. Rachel is a fully qualified Clerk and looks forward to building on her experience.

We recently appointed Charlie Michaels as our Facilities and Maintenance Officer. She will work closely with the Clerk, and our Village Hall Caretaker, Sue Mutimer, to implement upgrades to our facilities and closely monitor the services we provide around the Parish.

Parish Council Meetings

Our Council meetings are usually held on the second Monday of every month apart from August when the Council does not meet. Dates can be found on our website and on all our noticeboards. Meetings are open to the public with a remote meeting option. Details are found on the monthly agenda which is published online and displayed on the Village Hall noticeboard a few days before each meeting.

Members of the public can participate during an allocated time slot at the beginning of each meeting. Outside of this, as these are formal meetings, people may speak only if invited to do so by the Chair. Please note there is no obligation to remain for the entire meeting after the 'public participation' slot, so don't let this deter you from joining our meeting and raising your issue.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on 14 September 2026 at 7pm in Ardleigh Village Hall, with a remote link available. The Council does not have a meeting in August. Minutes and agendas can be found on our website www.ardleigh.website.

Infrastructure Projects and Planning

The Norwich to Tilbury project and related windfarm and substation proposals remain a major concern for Ardleigh. Our Planning Infrastructure Working Group members continue to invest hours of their time reviewing large numbers of technical documents and researching detailed information. They have again represented Ardleigh and Little Bromley Parish Councils at more hearings and have produced outstanding responses and submissions

to ongoing deadlines for the Examining Authority on the Councils' behalf. Details of these can be found here <https://ardleigh.website/pylons-and-substations>

Thanks to generous public support we have continued to obtain legal and planning advice where needed. The Council benefits from legal advice and representation from our barrister, Simon Bell, and we have also been working with planning consultants where appropriate. It remains possible to contribute <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/ardleigh-legal-fund-against-pylons-substations> or email legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk.

Actions taken by the developer of the Flying Trade warehouse development at Old Ipswich Road and Wick Lane have led the Council to initiate further legal action against the scheme. We believe the developer has acted outside of the scope of the application conditions. We are confident this is a necessary step to attempt to stop commencement of the huge storage and distribution facility that received over 200 objections from members of the public.

If you can contribute to our legal costs to help continue this fight, please email legalfund@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk.

There is still no decision on the proposed asphalt plant close to the intended new Country Park at Crown Quarry. Our concerns include odour, traffic and environmental impact. If the Tendring District Council (TDC) planning officer recommends approval, the application will go to TDC's Planning Committee. Should this happen, one of our Councillors, and our District Councillor, Zoe Fairley will speak against the application. The public are welcome to attend the Planning Committee meetings and demonstrate to the Committee the strength of community feeling.

Councillors met with representatives from the Anglian Water Strategic Pipeline project to discuss future plans. The existing pipeline from Great Horkesley to Ardleigh will be upgraded to carry more water to Ardleigh Reservoir. Their plans will be submitted to TDC in the coming months. Ecology and archaeology surveys will be conducted in 2027 with a view to beginning work in 2028.

Councillors, the District Councillor, the Clerk and a TDC Planning Officer met with representatives from Tarchon who are bringing forward plans for an Interconnector Project between the UK and Germany to enable power sharing and therefore increased power security between the countries. The proposed converter site will be very close to the proposed National Grid East Anglia Connection Node and the substations for Five Estuaries and North Fall. A significant area of productive agricultural land around Ardleigh and Little Bromley will be industrialised if all these schemes go ahead. The Council will work closely with all these companies as plans progress to ensure the best possible outcome for the Parish.

We continue to review planning applications and comment to TDC, who make the final decisions. During May and June, the Council commented on a wide range of planning

applications, including proposals for new dwellings, extensions, outline housing proposals, listed building consent, and tree works, continuing to refer where appropriate to Ardleigh's Neighbourhood Plan and Tendring District Council's Local Plan. Full details of planning applications are available at <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/view-planning-applications-and-comment>.

Footpaths, Hedgerows and Verges

Please ensure you keep the area around your home and land tidy to allow others a clear and safe route to pass, especially those with limited mobility/ sight issues, or need more space including prams and wheelchairs. Hedges may be trimmed if causing an obstruction.

Should anyone wish to complain about overgrown areas, please report these to Essex Highways as this is their responsibility. The link to use is www.essexhighways.org/tell-us. Providing clear photos of the problem and detailing the issue as an obstruction may expedite action.

Odours & Flies

These continue to be a problem for residents leading to many comments on social media.

Flies appear to be a widespread issue across the district. District Councillor, Zoe Fairley, has been collating information on this problem. She, along with other local District Councillors, attended a briefing with TDC's Environmental Health Team.

Their report concludes the most affected areas are Ardleigh, Little Bromley, Great Bromley, Elmstead, Alresford and Thorrington. There is no definitive source of, or reason for, the fly increase. TDC will continue monitoring and encourage residents to provide relevant information about possible sources for the flies. TDC's key messages for residents and Councillors are below:

Key Messages for Residents / Councillors

- Fly activity can arise from multiple sources and may vary significantly with weather conditions.
- Different regulators have responsibility depending upon the source of the flies.
- The Council can only take enforcement action where the legal threshold and evidential requirements for statutory nuisance are met.
- Waste transfer stations and certain agricultural activities are principally regulated by the Environment Agency.
- Joint working between the Council, Environment Agency, DEFRA and other partners is often required to resolve persistent issues.
- Residents are advised to deploy commercially available fly control measures and good hygiene practices.

- Residents are invited to report potential sources they may be aware of to the council for further investigation. Given the size of the geographical area, it is impossible for council officers to visit the entire area.

TDC's next review will be at the end of July. To ensure issues you may have are logged, please email the contacts below giving date, time, weather conditions and location together with any other relevant information. Ideally copy the information to all parties.

Tendring District Council Environmental Health Services

Phone: 01255 686767

Email: env.services@tendringdc.gov.uk

Tendring District Councillor Zoe Fairley

Email: cllr.zfairley@tendringdc.gov.uk

Environment Agency

Phone: 03708 506 506 (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm)

Email: enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Online: <https://report-an-environmental-problem.service.gov.uk/>

Odours. There is no update on this issue at present. Residents are still encouraged to keep reporting odour concerns to the Environment Agency using the links above.

Ardleigh Village Hall

Yellow Brick Rd Nursery Ltd, the new providers of Early Years care at the Village Hall have been working hard to prepare the Village Hall garden for the forest school activities they plan to provide. The Council has implemented various safety upgrades including new fire extinguishers and a new fire door.

How to Book the Village Hall

We use Community Halls in Partnership (CHIP) to manage the bookings of the hall and promote the hall more widely. For booking enquiries, please get in touch with the CHIP team on 01206 870266 or email ardleigh@community-centre.org.uk.

Village Hall and Recreation Ground Parking

As the school holidays approach, please remember the Village Hall and Recreation Ground car park are for users of these facilities, and for the Mill's long-term leaseholders.

We must thank local residents for taking note of our request not to leave their cars there, and businesses who have engaged with their staff to ensure they are no longer parking in these car parks. We need to ensure those who wish to use our facilities can do so.

Please note that **overnight parking is strictly prohibited** and that CCTV cameras monitor this area. Please remember to smile!

Accessible Toilet

It has come to our attention that residents are unaware of this facility. The toilet is at the rear of the Village Hall and is open from approximately 7am to 8pm. The entrance is also covered by our CCTV. Please leave the facilities as you find them.

Dog Poo

We thank all responsible dog owners/ walkers who pick up after their dogs. There is no 'poo fairy' so could anyone exercising a dog please ensure they pick up the poo and dispose of the bags in any of the bins provided. Please **DO NOT** leave the plastic bags on the ground or hanging in a tree.

A gentle reminder, please, that dogs must remain on a lead when walking on the Recreation Ground. Not everyone is a dog lover, and an unruly dog can feel intimidating to some.

Land for Community Use

The proposed purchase of protected Local Green Space at Harwich Road is still under discussion. Following legal advice, the Council's ongoing position is that any purchase should only proceed with vacant possession. Further discussions with the vendor are underway.

Vacancies

We continue to welcome interest from residents who may be considering becoming a Parish Councillor. www.bit.ly/Become-a-Councillor

How You Can Get Involved

Join us! Whether it is litter picking, contributing to APACE activities, helping with community projects, volunteering with local initiatives or becoming a Councillor, we would love to hear from you.

Please note the start time for Parish Council meetings is 7pm at the Village Hall with a remote option. 2026 dates are – 13 July, no meeting in August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November and 14 December.

Contact us

Email: info@ardleigh-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.ardleigh.website

Tel: 01206 414989

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Quick Links

Report a highways issue: www.essexhighways.org/tell-us

View planning applications: www.tendringdc.gov.uk/planning